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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/331,499	06/21/1999	HENRIK ALMS	P99.1138	1747

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EXAMINER

TRAN, CON P

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2644

DATE MAILED: 09/11/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/331,499

Applicant(s)

ALMS ET AL.

Examiner

Con P. Tran

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 June 1999.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 June 1999 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 3.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. **Claims 11-19** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arras et al. U.S. Patent 5,323,453 (cited by Applicants) in view of Charland U.S. Patent 5,661,776 (cited by Applicants).

Regarding **claim 11**, Arras et al. teaches a method for the feed (see Fig. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5a, and respective portions of the specification) of a number of simultaneous users from one energy source (see col. 1, lines 31-36), the method comprising the steps of:

connecting a user to the energy source (see col. 1, lines 31-36);

supplying an initial feed current limited to a maximum value to the user in the connection phase (see col. 5, line 55- col. 6, line 8);

measuring the feed current that is supplied to the user (see col. 6, lines 10-37);

limiting the feed current to a standard value (see col. 5, lines 47-54), given an error-free user line and after a waiting time (see col. 6, lines 38-53); and

successively repeating the above steps for further users (see col. 6, lines 54-59).

However, Arras et al. reference does not explicitly disclose the method for the feed is a remote feed.

In the same field of endeavor, Charland teaches a method for the remote feed of a number of simultaneous users (see col. 2, lines 16-24) in order to allow a diagnostic routine to be performed on the communication line at a remote location from the device (see col. 2, lines 27-29).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included within the Arras et al. reference a method for the remote feed of a number of simultaneous users as taught by Charland since such combination would have allowed a diagnostic routine to be performed on the communication line at a remote location from the device as suggested by Charland in column 2, lines 27-39.

Regarding **claim 12**, Arras et al. further teaches the method according to claim 11, wherein the feed current for each user is limited to the maximum value (see col. 5, lines 47-54); and wherein a maximum, overall feed current available is not exceeded (see col. 6, lines 38-47).

Regarding **claim 13**, Arras et al. further teaches the method according to claim 11 (see Fig. 3, and respective portions of the specification), further comprising the step of:

disconnecting a user that continues to use the maximum value of the feed current after the expiration of the waiting time (see col. 5, lines 31-46 and col. 9, lines 23-30).

Regarding **claim 14**, Arras et al. further teaches the method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of:

allocating the maximum value of the feed current to a user that continues to use the maximum value of the feed current after the expiration of the waiting time (see col. 5, lines 31-46), wherein a current reserve is available (see col. 2, lines 45-50).

Regarding **claim 15**, Arras et al. further teaches the method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of: limiting the feed current of the user to the standard value after the waiting time (see col. 6, lines 42-47 and col. 7, lines 11-22).

Regarding **claim 16**, Arras et al. further teaches the method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of:

periodically checking a faulty network termination unit of a user with the maximum value of the feed current (see col. 5, lines 47-54 and col. 12, lines 65-68).

Regarding **claim 17**, Arras et al. further teaches the method according to claim 11 (see col. 6, lines 10-37),

wherein $I_{rmax} = I_{max} + (n-1) I_{standa}$; and wherein

I_{rmax} = a maximum feed current made available overall,

I_{max} = a feed current made maximally available to an individual user,

I_{standa} = a feed current made available to a user after the connection phase, and

n = a number of the users.

Regarding **claim 18**, Arras et al. further teaches the method according to claim 17 (see col. 6, lines 10-37),

wherein $I_{rmax} = m \times I_{max} +$

$(n-m) I_{standa}$ wherein m is a number of members of a group of users and is less than n .

Regarding **claim 19**, Arras et al. teaches an arrangement for the feed (see Fig. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5a, and respective portions of the specification) a number of users from one energy source, comprising:

an energy source (see col. 1, lines 34-36);

a number of series circuits (2) connected to the energy source (see col. 4, lines 54-66), each series circuits having:

a controllable current source (I_L) connected to a respective user
(see col. 5, lines 55-68); and

a measuring instrument (30) to connected to a respective user (see
col. 5, lines 55-68); and

a control (20) for monitoring the values of feed currents to the users and
for setting current limitation values of the controllable current sources (see col. 5, lines
55-68); wherein the values of the feed currents are supplied from the measuring
instruments (see col. 6, lines 10-37); and wherein the feed current is initially set to a
maximum value during the connection phase (see col. 5, line 55- col. 6, line 8) and is
limited to a standard value after a waiting time (see col. 5, lines 31-46 and col. 9, lines
23-30).

However, Arras et al. reference does not explicitly disclose an arrangement for
the feed is an arrangement for a remote feed.

In the same field of endeavor, Charland teaches an arrangement for a remote
feed of a number of simultaneous users (see col. 2, lines 16-24) in order to allow a
diagnostic routine to be performed on the communication line at a remote location from
the device (see col. 2, lines 27-29).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the
time the invention was made to have included within the Arras et al. reference an
arrangement for a remote feed of a number of simultaneous users as taught by
Charland since such combination would have allowed a diagnostic routine to be

performed on the communication line at a remote location from the device as suggested by Charland in column 2, lines 27-39.

3. **Claim 20** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arras et al. U.S. Patent 5,323,453 (cited by Applicants) in view of Charland U.S. Patent 5,661,776 (cited by Applicants), and further in view of Ikeda et al. U.S. Patent 5,063,563 (cited by Applicants).

Regarding **claim 20** Arras et al. in view of Charland teaches an arrangement for the remote feed according to claim 19. However, Arras et al. in view of Charland does not explicitly disclose an arrangement, wherein the arrangement is provided for a remote feed of a number of ISDN users.

In the same field of endeavor, Ikeda et al. teaches an arrangement (see Fig. 3, 4, and respective portions of the specification), wherein the arrangement is provided for a remote feed of a number of ISDN users (see col. 4, lines 15-20) so that it is possible to reduce the capacity of the power source on the switching system side (see col. 2, lines 40-42).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included within the Arras et al. reference an arrangement wherein the arrangement is provided for a remote feed of a number of ISDN users (see col. 4, lines 15-20) as taught by Charland since such combination

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would have been made possible to reduce the capacity of the power source on the switching system side as suggested by Charland in column 2, lines 40-42.

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Inventor	Publication	Number	Disclosure
Stiefel	US Patent	5,721,774	A power-conserving, loop start signalling, dual-voltage line-feed circuit that maintains ac longitudinal balance on the loop conductors and which limits average and peak loop current not only when the loop is in the off-hook transmission state but also during part-time on-hook transmission.
Gores et al.	US Patent	5,511,118	A two-wire telephone line is supplied with d.c. feed from a drive circuit including two amplifiers via which a transmission signal is supplied to the line.
Patel et al.	US Patent	5,175,764	An enhanced high voltage line interface circuit for a digital switching system over which a connection is

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			established between a digital switching system and a subscriber instrument via a subscriber loop..
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5. The following are suggested formats for either a Certificate of Mailing or Certificate of Transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a). The certification may be included with all correspondence concerning this application or proceeding to establish a date of mailing or transmission under 37 CFR 1.8(a). Proper use of this procedure will result in such communication being considered as timely if the established date is within the required period for reply. The Certificate should be signed by the individual actually depositing or transmitting the correspondence or by an individual who, upon information and belief, expects the correspondence to be mailed or transmitted in the normal course of business by another no later than the date indicated.

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Washington, D.C. 20231

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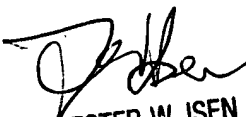
Please refer to 37 CFR 1.6(d) and 1.8(a)(2) for filing limitations concerning facsimile transmissions and mailing, respectively.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Con P. Tran, whose telephone number is (703) 305-2341. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F (8:30 AM - 5:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Forester W. Isen can be reached on (703) 305-4386. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Customer Service Office at telephone number (703) 306-0377.

cpt CPT
September 6, 2002


FORESTER W. ISEN
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